

went to Millard South High School, but he played hockey for Westside and the Fremont team my kids played on. They got to compete against him and know him as a competitor.

He enjoyed hunting, being in the outdoors. He especially enjoyed the water. He was a Boy Scout in Troop 331. He loved spending time with his family and friends. He was a member of his local church, the Lutheran church of Millard, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Millard.

Like so many Nebraskans, he was a die-hard sports fan, his favorite team being the Chicago Blackhawks.

Corporal Page gave the last full measure of devotion to his country. His mission was clear. In the chaos of Kabul, Corporal Page was there to protect and save lives, and that is exactly what he did. Marines held the line and pulled both Americans and our Afghan allies to safety. Marines pulled children out of hell, gave them water, and got them to safety.

Corporal Page gave his life so that others would live. Nebraskans will never forget him. Heroes like Corporal Page didn't fail us, and we can't forget them. We must keep our promise to honor his family, to teach our families about their sacrifice, and to strive to live lives of gratitude. It is times like this where we rediscover the heart of our country. Communities that pull together—as happened last Friday and will happen this Friday at his funeral at St. Paul's Lutheran—we pray together, make meals for each other, and we are reminded of the sacrifice so many families have made.

Today, and in the days to come, we in Nebraska will honor Corporal Page, and we across this country will honor the 13 who fell that day. Your sacrifice is a debt we can never repay.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL DAVID LEE ESPINOZA

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of David Lee Espinoza, who died in defense of our Nation on August 26.

David was a marine who was helping with the evacuation of the Kabul airport when he was murdered by a suicide bomber, along with 12 other service men and women who so senselessly had their lives taken from them that day. His mother got the call that every parent of every servicemember fears when she was told at 2:30 in the morning that her son had lost his life in Afghanistan.

David was just 20 years old. David was a lifelong Texan. He was born in Laredo and raised nearby in Rio Bravo, where he was the eldest of four children.

David always wanted to be a marine. And as a child, he loved to consider different military strategies as he played with toy soldiers. David joined the Marines the summer after he graduated from LBJ High School in Laredo in

2019, and he spent time serving in Jordan before being sent to Kabul the week before he died. It has been said that other service branches wanted David to join their ranks, but David always knew he was meant to be a marine.

David was a beloved son, a brother, a friend, and a fellow marine. He was a patriot who had a passion for service, and our Nation can never repay the debt that we owe to David and to his family for giving what President Lincoln hailed as "the last full measure of devotion."

Yesterday, at David's funeral mass, Father Francisco Stodola said:

As tragic as this loss is, and as deep as the wounds of sorrow have pierced the hearts of his loved ones, and particularly his mother—because a mother would rather lose an arm or a leg than to have to lose a child—we can console ourselves with the fact that David died doing what he wanted to do with the people he wanted to do it with.

We will remember David and the incredible sacrifice he gave for our country. He will also be remembered by his community. The Laredo City Council has already voted to name the road in front of LBJ High School, David's alma mater, as the "Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza Memorial Boulevard."

To David's parents, Elizabeth Holguin and Victor Manuel Dominguez, and to his siblings, Angel Martin Espinoza, Victor Manuel Dominguez, Jr., and Delilah Alyssa Dominguez, I want to say that your son and your brother was a brave patriot who will never be forgotten. Heidi and I are lifting you up in prayer as you mourn the loss of your beloved David.

The 91st Psalm is sometimes called the soldier's or the warrior's psalm because it asks the Lord for protection against many foes, and it assures us that the Lord will be with us in times of trouble:

Because he loves me, says the Lord, I will rescue him;

I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble.

I will deliver him and honor him.

David's sacrifice was not in vain. He died as he lived, giving of himself in the service of others. David now rests from his labors, having been a good and faithful servant.

And to the families of all of those whose lives were lost in Afghanistan this year and in the 20 years that preceded it, know that your sacrifice, know that your loss was not in vain. America is better. America is safer. American lives are more secure because your sons and daughters answered the call. America is better and safer and more secure because David Espinoza answered the call. Texas and America are better for having known him, and we are in his debt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL JARED SCHMITZ

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in hon-

oring the 13 servicemembers who were killed in action in Afghanistan last month doing what only the bravest and the most extraordinary Americans do: risking their lives to save others.

Every name has been mentioned on the floor today, but no matter how often we mention those names, we can't restore those individuals to their families. We can't restore them to their communities. We can't restore them to the people they served side by side with in the military.

But we can remember what they did—what they did collectively, and what they did individually.

One of the marines we tragically lost in the attack at Kabul airport was Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz of Wentzville, MO. He was just 6 months old on 9/11. In fact, we have seen that discussion many times of people who now give their life who were babies or not yet born on 9/11, 20 years ago.

Even though he was 6 months old on 9/11, he knew what he wanted to be, and he knew he wanted to be a marine by the time he was a sophomore in high school. He started training as a teenager, years before he enlisted. After graduating from Fort Zumwalt South High School in St. Peters, MO, he realized his dream. He joined the Marines and served as an infantryman.

Jared's father Mark Schmitz says his son—this is his father's quote and it is a great thing to be able to say about your son. Mark Schmitz said his son "looked out for everybody. Anyone who needed help, he was there. He was selfless. He never put himself first."

Of course, we see another moment when he and the others whose lives were lost and others who were injured—some dramatically injured—didn't put themselves first; they put others first.

Friends remember Jared as energetic, as happy, as a faithful fan of the St. Louis Blues. Others will remember him as 1 of 56 Missourians who made the ultimate sacrifice as part of the either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

We remember and honor each and every one of these heroes from our State and heroes from every State who have given their lives for freedom in this post-9/11 world, where we don't know exactly where the borders are or who—where the enemy might be at any given time, whether they are going to strike at home, where we live, or whether they are going to strike far away, where others are representing us and defending us. We remember and honor each of them.

We pray for their families and all who will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. We need to now do our part every day to live lives worthy of their sacrifice, never taking for granted the freedom and security we have because they were called to serve and support it and guarantee it for another generation.

I know I join all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we think of